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[Translation]

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2. Cited references and Explanations

Cited reference 1: JP 2002-114009 A (Bridgestone Corporation)
2002. 04. 16, claims 1-5, Figures 1 and 2

Inventions recited in claims 1, 4 and 7-10 have no novelty or inventive step in view of cited references 1 in the International Search Report. The "central land portion 22 and quasi-land portions 14" correspond to the land portion of the present invention.

Therefore, it is deemed that the quasi-land portions 14 described in Figs. 1 and 2 of cited reference 1 correspond to the "recessed portions" of the present inventions, in that the quasi-land portions 14 are provided at the land portion (the central land portion 22 and the quasi-land portions 14), are formed along the adjacent tread surface side edges at the tire axial direction inner side of the steep-angle grooves, and have a depth increasing and a width decreasing from the longitudinal directional middle portions of the steep-angle grooves toward the end portions of the steep-angle grooves near the tire equatorial plane.

The invention recited in claim 2 has no inventive step in view of cited reference 1. It is a technical matter obvious to those skilled in the art to determine, in the invention described in cited reference 1, the angle of the land side wall surfaces of the recessed portions with consideration to rigidity of the land and water drainage ability.

The invention recited in claim 3 has no inventive step in view of cited reference 1. It is deemed to be a technical matter obvious to those skilled in the art to arrange, in the invention described in cited reference 1, the boundary lines of the recessed portions at one side and the boundary lines of the recessed portions at the other side in a straight line in the circumferential direction.

The inventions recited in claims 5, 6 and 11 have no inventive step in view of cited reference 1. It is a technical matter obvious to those skilled in the art to determine, in the invention described in cited reference 1, the circumferential length of the recessed portions, the height of the deepest portions of the recessed portions, and the

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overlapping condition between the recessed portions at the right side and those at the left side with consideration to rigidity of the blocks and water drainage ability.